ZIP CODES
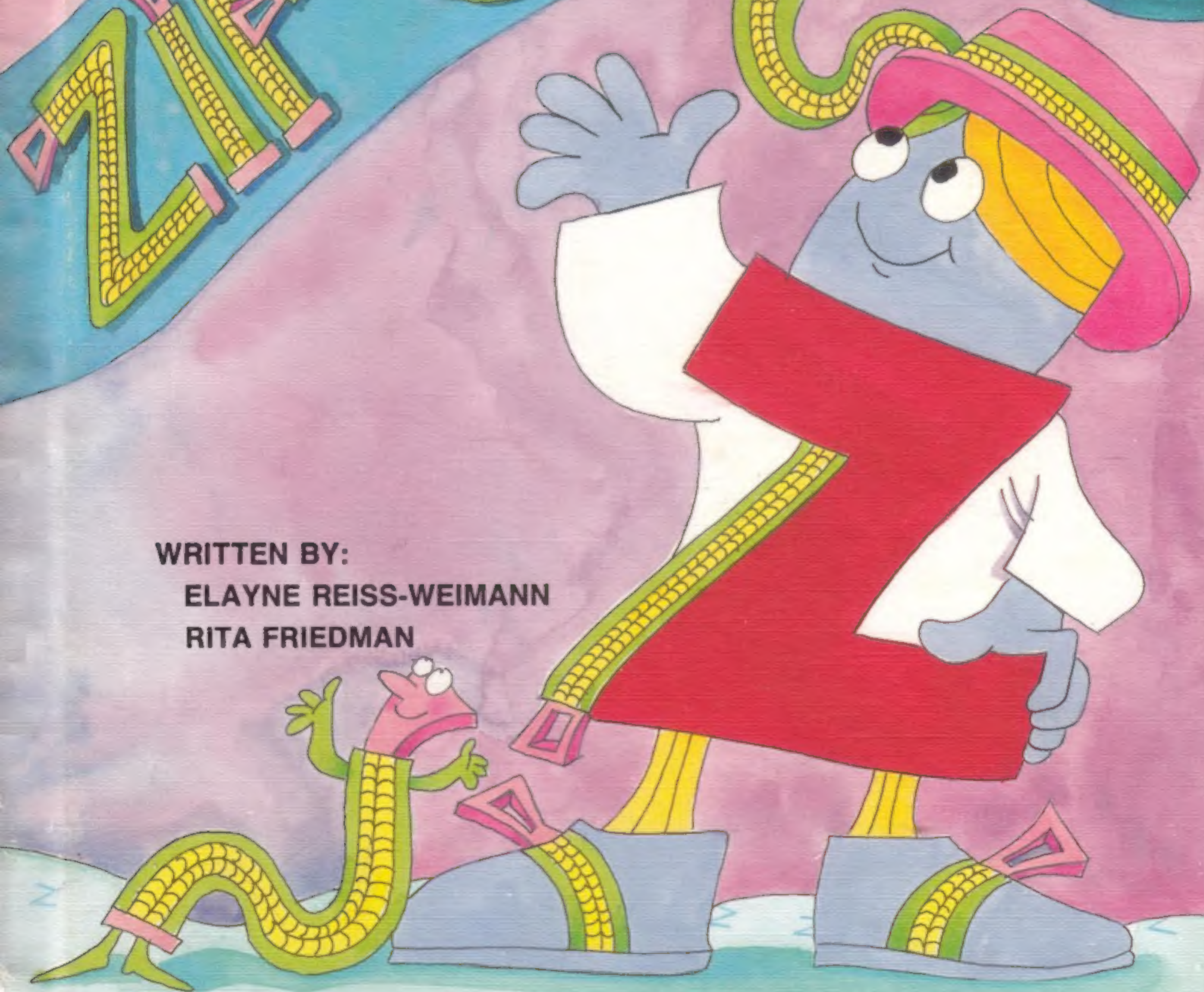
WRITTEN BY:
ELAYNE REISS-WEIMANN
RITA FRIEDMAN

One winter, it is very cold in Letter People Land.

It snows for days and days.

The schools close.

The stores close.

But the post office stays open.

1

Each day the post office workers go to work.

The weather continues to be cold and snowy.

It is very hard to deliver the mail.

One by one, the post office workers get sick.

Soon there is no one to sort the mail.

There is no one to deliver the mail.

Letter People Land has a post office emergency.

Mr. Z discusses the problem with the zipping zippers.
"All the postal workers are ill," he says.
"There is no one to sort and deliver the mail."
"We'll be glad to help," say the zipping zippers.
"You've always taught us to help others."
"I am proud of you," says Mr. Z.
"Let's zip away to the post office."

The mail at the post office is piled to the ceiling.
"It will not be easy to sort and deliver
all this mail," says Mr. Z.
He reads the many different addresses on the mail.
"I don't know where to find all these streets.
I'll have to look at a street map," says Mr. Z.
Mr. Z studies the map for a long time.
At last he says, "I have an idea that will make sorting
and delivering the mail easier."

Mr. Z divides the map into three parts.

He colors one part red, one yellow, and one blue.

"The streets in the red part of the map will be the Red Mail Delivery Zone," says Mr. Z.

"The streets in the yellow part of the map will be the Yellow Mail Delivery Zone."

The zipping zippers smile and add,

"And the streets in the blue part of the map will be the Blue Mail Delivery Zone."

"You learn very quickly," smiles Mr. Z.

"Colors will help us sort and deliver the mail."

Mr. Z gets three boxes — one red, one yellow,
and one blue.

"Look at the street address on the mail," says Mr. Z.

"Find that street on the map.

If the street is in the red part of the map,
put the mail in the red box.

The yellow box is for any mail with a street address
in the yellow part of the map."

"And the blue box is for any mail with a street address
in the blue part of the map,"
say the zipping zippers.

"That's right," smiles Mr. Z.

After a long time, all the mail is sorted into
the red, the yellow, or the blue box.
Then Mr. Z gets red stickers, yellow stickers, and
blue stickers.
"We'll put a red sticker on each piece of mail
in the red box," he says.
"We understand," smile the zipping zippers.
"All the mail in the yellow box will have
yellow stickers.
All the mail in the blue box will have blue stickers."
"Good thinking," says Mr. Z.
"Now let's get to work."

Mr. Zimm Lane
270 Zanny Land
Letter People

Finally each piece of mail has either a red,
a yellow, or a blue sticker.

Then Mr. Z says, "I have red scarves, yellow scarves,
and blue scarves for you to wear.

Whoever wears a red scarf will deliver the mail
from the red box."

"Whoever wears a yellow scarf will deliver mail
from the yellow box," smile the zipping zippers.

"And whoever wears a blue scarf will deliver mail
from the blue box."

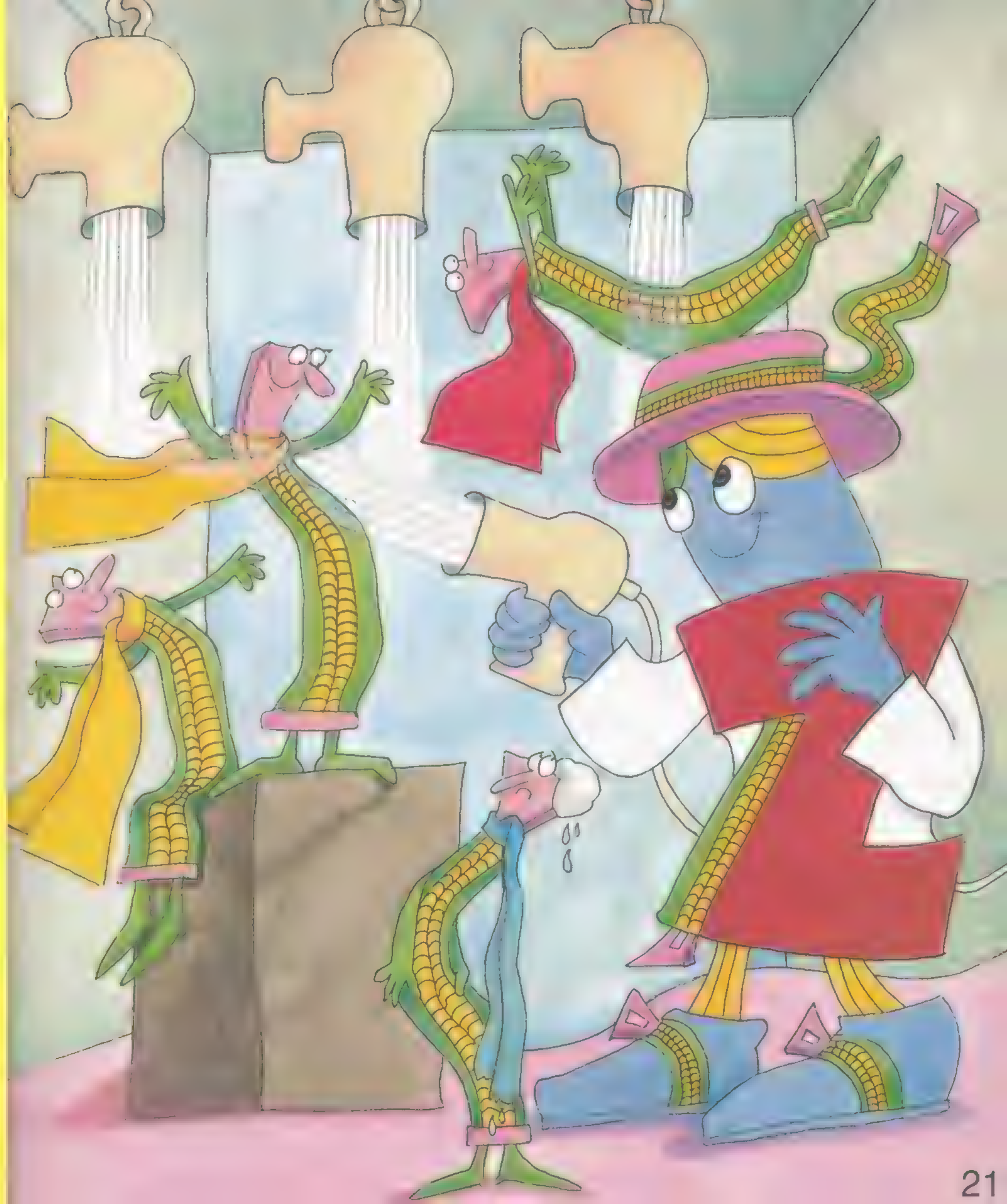"You are very smart," says Mr. Z proudly.

15

Each zipping zipper takes a scarf and takes mail
to deliver.
It is very cold outside.
It is snowing, and the wind is blowing.
The zipping zippers zig and zag on the snow and ice.
They deliver the mail they are carrying.
Then they zig and zag back to the post office
to get more mail.
The zipping zippers never stop.
They zip away to make another mail delivery.

Miss Zelda Zin
460 Zend Street
Letter People Land

Soon there is a problem.

The long scarves get very wet.

The zipping zippers get very wet.

They start to squeak and rust.

Mr. Z is worried about them.

He has a zany idea to help the wet zipping zippers.

Mr. Z gets different kinds of hair dryers.
He makes a drying room in the post office.
When the wet zipping zippers return to the post office
they get dried with the hair dryers.
Then they leave to deliver more mail.
But the zipping zippers who are wearing blue scarves
deliver mail far away from the post office.
They get wetter and squeakier than the other zippers.
They start to rust before they get back
to the drying room.

"The zipping zippers wearing blue scarves must be dried while they are traveling," thinks Mr. Z.
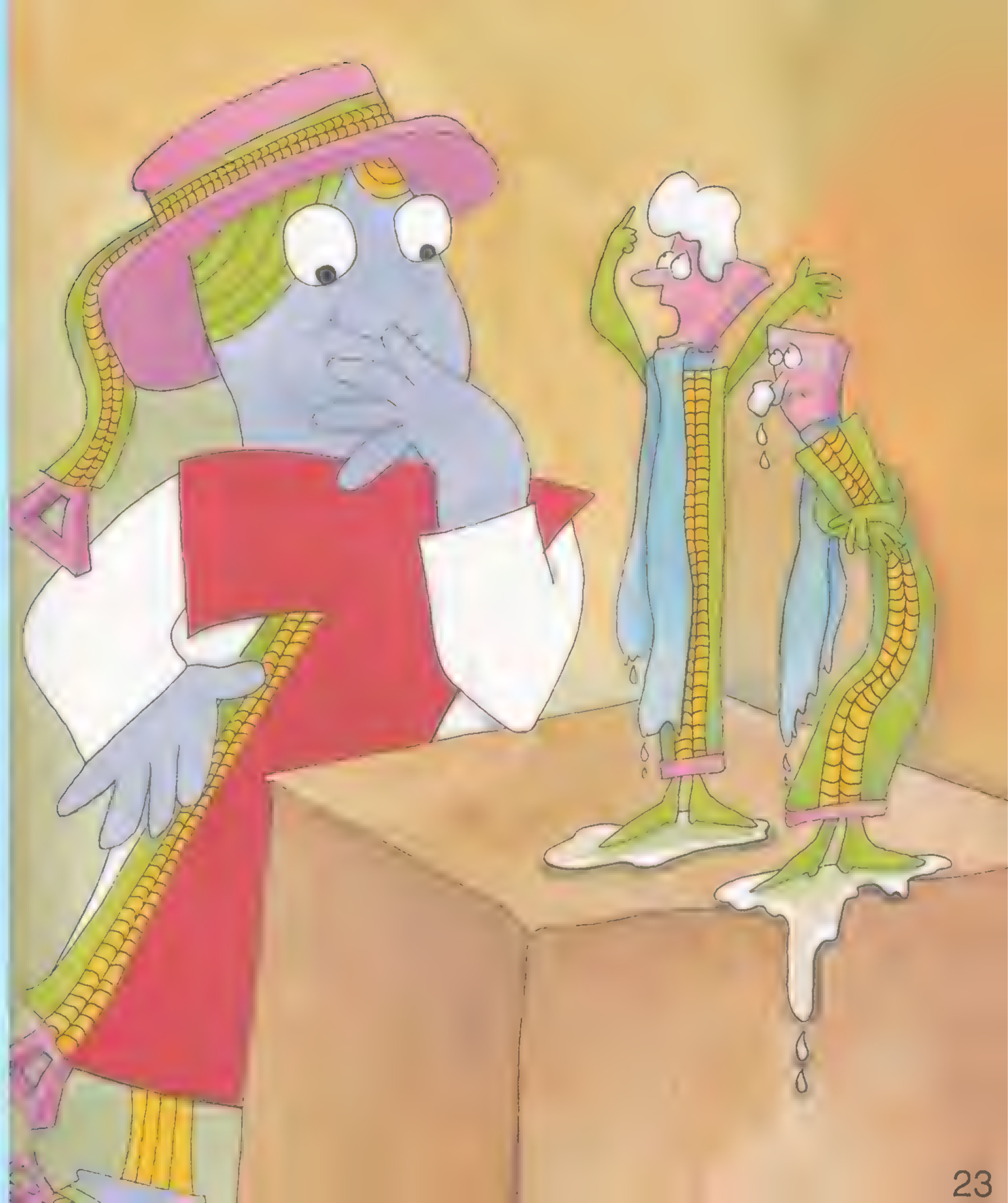Mr. Z takes out some hair dryers without cords.
"These dryers work on batteries," explains Mr. Z.
"That's why they are cordless.
You can use them anywhere."
"Thank you, Mr. Z," say the zipping zippers with blue scarves.
"Now we won't get rusty."

Mr. Z's hair dryer idea works.

Now the zipping zippers can deliver mail all over Letter People Land without getting rusty.

After a few weeks the postal workers are better and return to the post office.

"Mr. Z, we want to thank you and the zipping zippers for helping us," they say.

"You've done a good job, and we like your idea for using colors to make mail delivery easier."

"I have been thinking and thinking," says Mr. Z.
"It would be easier for the post office
to use a number code instead of a color code.
Then you wouldn't need boxes, stickers, and scarves.
And everyone who mails a letter
can help the post office.
Let me show you," says Mr. Z, walking to the map.
Mr. Z writes 11111 in the red part of the map.
He writes 22222 in the yellow part of the map.
He writes 33333 in the blue part of the map.
"Now each part of the map has a different number code,"
says Mr. Z.

"From now on all mail delivered to the red zone will have 11111 written on it," says Mr. Z.

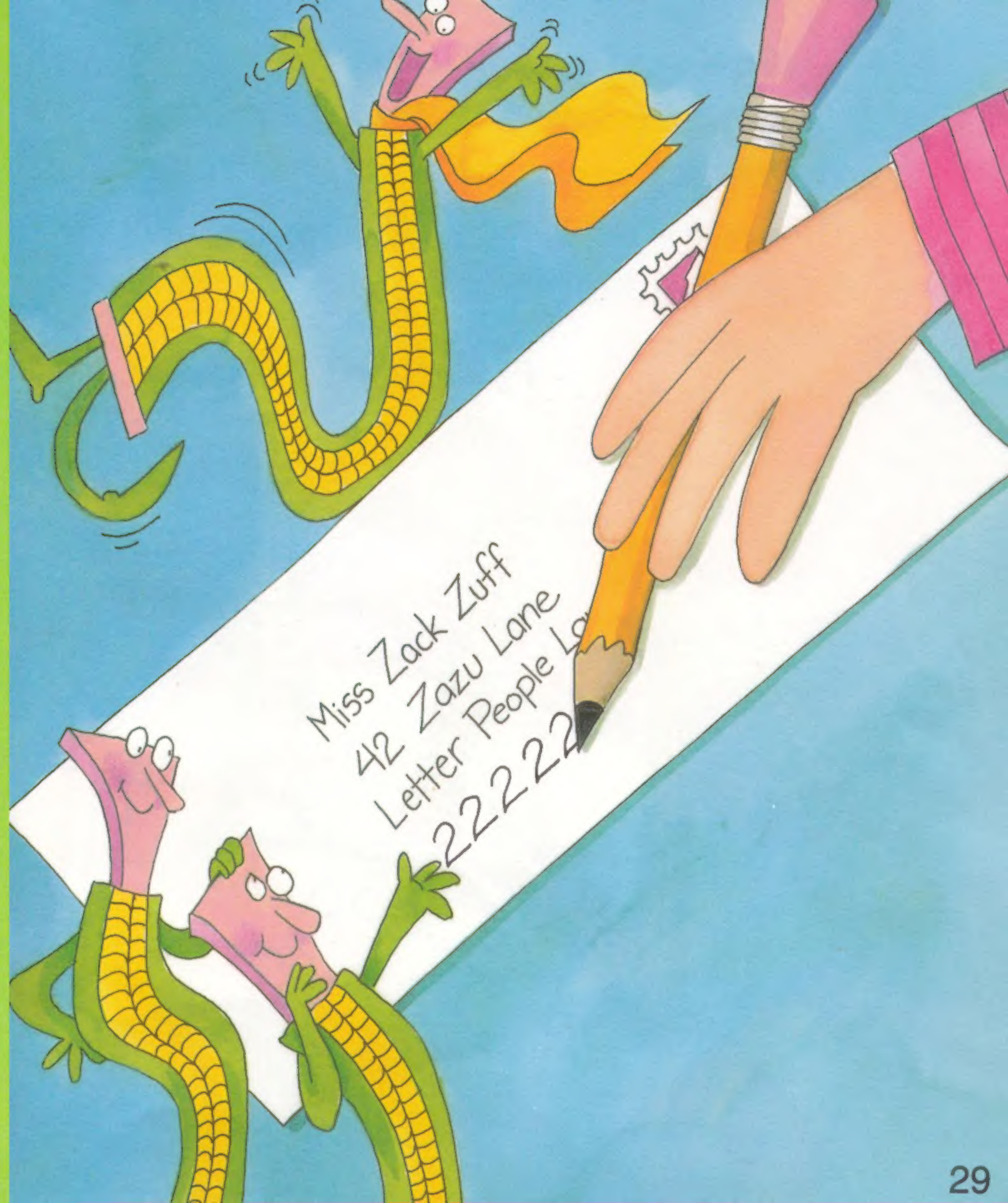"Mail for the yellow zone will have 22222 written on it. Mail for the blue zone will have 33333 written on it."

"It will take us too much time to write a number code on every letter," say the postal workers.

"That will not be your job," says Mr. Z.

"It will be the job of each person who mails a letter."

"Mr. Z, we'll ask people to write a number code on all their mail," smile the postal workers.

"And we'll use a special name for the number code."

Miss Zack Zuff
42 Zazu Lane
Letter People L...
22222

"We'll use a name that will remind us of Mr. Z and the zipping zippers," say the postal workers. "What name?" ask the zipping zippers excitedly. "The name will be zip code!" smile the postal workers. And that's just what they did.

33333